

**R E M A R K S**

\_\_\_\_\_Claim 1 was amended hereinabove to include the feature of previous claim 6.

Claim 28 was amended hereinabove to correct a minor clerical error.

Claim 29 was amended hereinabove to include the features of previous claim 30.

Applicants are pleased to note that claims 16 and 30 were deemed to be allowable (see item no. 5 at the bottom of page 3 of the December 14, 2007 Office Action).

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12 and 17 to 29 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Takabayashi (USP 7,244,472 and USP 7,084,184) in view of Mantel et al. (EP 0 779 346 and USP 5,641,346) for the reasons set forth in item no. 4 on pages 2 to 3 of the December 14, 2007 Office Action.

The 35 USC 103 rejection is submitted to be moot in view of the above amendments to claims 1 and 29.

The 35 USC 103 rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Reconsideration is requested. Allowance is solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,

/Richard S. Barth/

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